

COMPLETE LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

1. (Original) A pallet assembly comprising:
 - a first deck member;
 - a second deck member mounted to the first deck member, the second deck member having a first predetermined fire retardancy;
 - a third deck member spaced from the second deck member; a fourth deck member mounted to the third deck member, the fourth deck member having a second predetermined fire retardancy; and
 - at least one column member extending between the second and third deck members, the at least one column having a third predetermined fire retardancy lower than that of the second and fourth decks.
2. (Original) The pallet assembly of claim 1 wherein the at least one column member has a first end and a second end, the first end mounted to the second deck member, and the second end mounted to the third deck member.
3. (Original) The pallet assembly of claim 1 wherein the first deck member has an other predetermined fire retardancy less than that of the second deck member.
4. (Original) The pallet assembly of claim 1 wherein the third deck member has an other predetermined fire retardancy less than that of the second deck member.

5. (Original) The pallet assembly of claim 1 wherein the third deck member has a fire retardancy substantially equivalent to that of the at least one column member.

6. (Currently Amended) The pallet assembly of claim 1, wherein the first and second deck members comprise a top deck and wherein the third and fourth deck members comprise a bottom deck, the pallet assembly further comprising at least one elongated reinforcement member extending within at least one of the top and bottom decks.

7. (Original) The pallet assembly of claim 1, wherein the top member and mid-top member have mating ribbed surfaces which are attached to each other.

8. (Currently Amended) The pallet assembly of claim 1, wherein the fourth deck bottom member and mid-bottom third deck member have mating ribbed surfaces which are attached to each other.

9. (Original) A pallet assembly comprising:

a top deck having a top deck upper surface and a top deck lower surface, the top deck having a first predetermined fire retardancy;

a bottom deck having a bottom deck upper surface and a bottom deck lower surface, the bottom deck spaced apart from the top deck and having a second predetermined fire retardancy; and

at least one column extending between the top deck and bottom deck, the at least one column having an other fire retardancy lower than at least one of the first and second fire retardancies.

Serial No. 10/040,098
Attorney Docket No: RPC 0570 PUS

10. (Original) The pallet assembly of claim 9, further comprising at least one elongated reinforcement member extending within at least one of the top and bottom decks.
11. (Original) The pallet assembly of claim 9, wherein the top decks comprises a top member and a mid-top member which are joined together.
12. (Original) The pallet assembly of claim 11, wherein the top member and mid-top member have mating ribbed surfaces which are attached to each other.
13. (Original) The pallet assembly of claim 11, wherein the bottom deck comprises a bottom member and a mid-bottom member.
14. (Original) The pallet assembly of claim 13, wherein the bottom member and mid-bottom member have mating ribbed surfaces which are attached to each other.
15. (Original) The pallet assembly of claim 9, wherein the top deck has a plurality of box beam sections disposed therein between the top deck upper surface and the top deck lower surface.
16. (Original) The pallet assembly of claim 9, wherein the bottom deck has a plurality of box beam sections disposed therein between the bottom deck upper surface and the bottom deck lower surface.

17. (Original) A pallet assembly comprising:

a first deck member;

a second deck member mounted to the first deck member, the second deck member having a predetermined fire retardancy;

a third deck member spaced from the second deck member;

a fourth deck member mounted to the third deck member; and

at least one column member extending between the second and third deck members and attached thereto,

wherein the first deck member, third deck member, fourth deck member and the at least one column member each has an other predetermined fire retardancy which is less than that of the second deck member.

18. (Original) The pallet assembly of claim 17 wherein the at least one column member has a first column end and a second column end, the first column end mounted to the second deck member, and the second column end mounted to the third deck member.

19. (Currently Amended) The pallet assembly of claim 17, wherein the first and second deck members comprise a top deck and wherein the third and fourth deck members comprise a bottom deck, the pallet assembly further comprising at least one elongated reinforcement member extending within at least one of the top and bottom decks.

20. (Original) The pallet assembly of claim 17, wherein the top member and mid-top member have mating ribbed surfaces which are attached to each other.

21. (Currently Amended) The pallet assembly of claim 17, wherein the ~~bottom~~ fourth deck member and ~~mid-bottom~~ third deck member have mating ribbed surfaces which are attached to each other.

22. (Original) A pallet assembly comprising:

a horizontally-disposed first portion formed of a polymeric material and having a first top surface and a first bottom surface, the first portion having a first predetermined fire retardancy;

a horizontally-disposed second portion formed of a polymeric material and having a second top surface and a second bottom surface, the second portion having a second predetermined fire retardancy;

at least one vertically-disposed portion extending between the first portion and second portion and having an other predetermined fire retardancy less than that of the first and second portions.

23. (Original) The pallet assembly of claim 22, wherein the first portion is a pallet top deck, the second portion is a pallet bottom deck, and the vertically-disposed portion is a column.

24. (New) A pallet assembly comprising:

a plastic first deck member having a first predetermined fire retardancy;

a plastic second deck member mounted to the first deck member, the second deck member having a second predetermined fire retardancy higher than the first predetermined fire retardancy; and

Serial No. 10/040,098
Attorney Docket No: RPC 0570 PUS

a plurality of supports extending downward from the second deck member.

25. (New) The pallet assembly of claim 24 wherein the plurality of supports have a third predetermined fire retardancy less than that of the first predetermined fire retardancy.

26. (New) A pallet assembly comprising:

a plastic first deck having a first predetermined fire retardancy; and

a plurality of plastic supports extending downward from the first deck, the plurality of supports having a second predetermined fire retardancy less than the first predetermined fire retardancy.